



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H., Secretary

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Melony Griffith  
Chair, Senate Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

**Re: HB 1146 – Maryland Department of Health and Maryland Health Care Commission – Dental Services – Survey and Regional Needs Assessment – Letter of Support as Amended**

Dear Chair Griffith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) respectfully submits this letter of support as amended for House Bill (HB) 1146 – Maryland Department of Health and Maryland Health Care Commission – Dental Services – Survey and Regional Needs Assessment.

This bill will require (1) MDH and the Maryland Hospital Association to conduct a survey of hospitals to identify the availability of hospital operating room resources for dentist use, and (2) MDH and the Maryland Health Care Commission (in consultation with the Maryland Hospital Association and the Maryland Ambulatory Surgery Association) to conduct a regional needs assessment for dental procedures that require anesthesia or moderate sedation.

MDH is dedicated to ensuring that Maryland Medical Assistance participants are able to access covered dental services, including those delivered in the hospital setting, in a timely manner. The report required by this bill will be helpful in assessing available resources and regional needs to inform planning to ensure access to care is not compromised.

If you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact Megan Peters, Acting Director of Governmental Affairs at [megan.peters@maryland.gov](mailto:megan.peters@maryland.gov) or (410) 260-3190.

Sincerely,

Laura Herrera Scott, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary